

**REMARKS**

This responds to the Office Action mailed on October 31, 2003.

Claims 1, 8 and 16 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-22 are now pending in this application.

**§102 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haley (U.S. 5,884,036). The independent claims have been amended to include identifying links and switches traversed in the path to identify all fundamental path elements of the path, and obtaining respective detailed information on properties of each of the fundamental path elements. These claim elements are not anticipated by Haley. Haley does not disclose identifying links and switches traversed in the path to identify all fundamental path elements of the path, and obtaining respective detailed information on properties of each of the fundamental path elements.

**§103 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spiegel et al. (U.S. 5,649,108) in view of Haley. The independent claims have been amended to include identifying links and switches traversed in the path to identify all fundamental path elements of the path, and obtaining respective detailed information on properties of each of the fundamental path elements. These claim elements are not obvious in view of the cited prior art taken singly or in combination. Neither of the references disclose identifying all fundamental path elements of the path, and obtaining respective detailed information on properties of each of the fundamental path elements as defined in the specification.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (847) 740-9080, or the below-signed attorney, to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

RAJESH R. SHAH

By his Representatives,

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By

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Reg. No. 25,179

Date

*April 30, 2004*

*Charles E. Steffey*

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30th day of April, 2004.

Name

KACIA LEE

Signature

*Kacia Lee*